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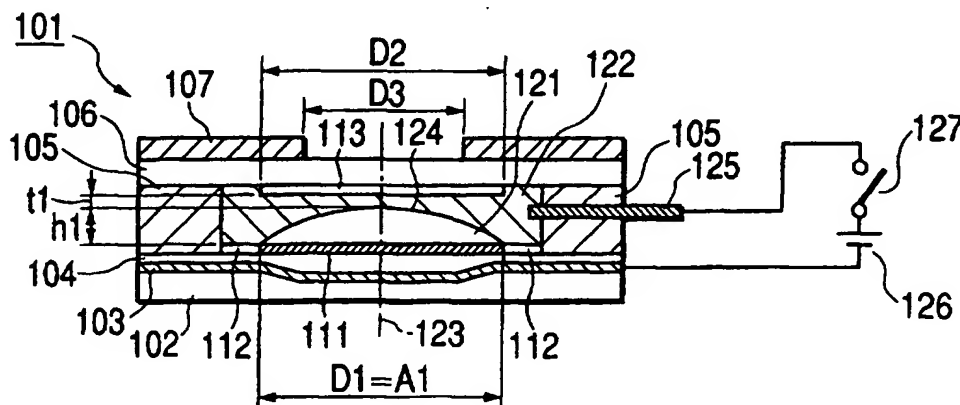
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(54) Optical element and optical device having it

(57) An optical element (101) has a first fluid (121) and an electroconductive or polar, second fluid (122) immiscible with each other, which are confined in a sealed space created between a first support (102) and a second support (106). The first fluid (121) and the second

fluid (122) have respective light transmittances different from each other. By varying a voltage applied to the second fluid (122), the shape of an interface (124) between the first fluid (121) and the second fluid (122) is altered, so as to change an amount of light passing through the optical element.

FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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	SHERIDON N K: "ELECTROCAPILLARY IMAGING DEVICES FOR DISPLAY AND DATA STORAGE" XEROX DISCLOSURE JOURNAL, XEROX CORPORATION. STAMFORD, CONN, US, vol. 4, no. 3, 1 May 1979 (1979-05-01), pages 385-386, XP002037058 * the whole document *		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) G02B G02F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 13 June 2003	Examiner Wahl, M
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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